



BLANDFORD RURAL DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR..... 1958
(INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR)



BLANDFORD RURAL COUNCIL

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VICE-CHAIRMAN..... Miss A.G. Biddlecombe.

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of:-

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR with combined duties as Surveyor:-

G.S.C. Udall, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.F.S., (Eng.)

ASSISTANT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

M. Stockley. Cert. R.S.I. M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,
Nordon,
Salisbury Road,
Blandford Forum.
August, 1959

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The vital statistics reveal two matters which merit comment.
The estimated mid-year population shows a decrease of 810 on the 1957 figures and is the lowest number recorded since 1951 .

There were five deaths from lung cancer, the highest figure so far recorded and nearly one quarter of the total cancer deaths. The figure reflects the gradual and inexorable rise in such deaths, reflecting as it does the large increase in tobacco smoking, particularly cigarettes, since 1939.

G.B. Hopkins.

August, 1959.

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres.....	61, 717.
Population as estimated by Registrar General.....	12, 670
Rateable value at 1st April, 1958.....	£90, 613
Product of ld rate at 1st April, 1958.....	£ 365.
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/58.....	2,958.

LIVE BIRTHS..... 174.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Blandford Rural.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative Cty.</u>
Legitimate.....	166	73	93			
Illegitimate.....	8	4	4	15.8	16.4	14.7

STILL BIRTHS (rate per 1,000 live and still births)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Blandford Rural</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative Cty.</u>
Legitimate.....	5	3	2			
Illegitimate.....	1	-	-	28	21.6	17.5

DEATHS (All Causes)..... 102

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Blandford Rural</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative Cty.</u>
	102	50	52	9.9	11.7	12.6

DEATHS (from Puerperal causes)

Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil
Other Puerperal causes.....	Nil

<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.....	4	3	1
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-

DEATHS FROM:-

Cancer (all ages) including lung cancer.	21.
Measles (all ages).....	-
Whooping cough (all ages).....	-
Diarrhoea (under 2).....	-

Deaths from:-

<u>LUNG CANCER.</u>	
<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
1958.....	5
1957.....	2
1956.....	2
1955.....	4
1954.....	2
1953.....	2

Comparability Factors:-

Births.....	1.15.	Deaths.....	1.23.
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SECTION A
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area..... 61, 717
Population..... 12, 670

(This represents a sharp fall from the 1957 figure, which was 13,480, and is markedly lower than any other year since 1951)

DEATHS

102 were assigned, yielding a standardised rate of 9.9 per 1,000 which is very close to the expected figure for a rural district.

BIRTHS

174 were assigned, yielding a standardised rate of 15.8, a figure fairly close to the county and national rate.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

There were no maternal deaths.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of infants dying under the age of one year was 4.

SECTION B

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester continues to give the district generous service. The Laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice-cream, and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infectious or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castleman House, Blandford.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an ante-natal clinic and an Infant Welfare Centre once a fortnight. These are held at the Red Cross Hall, in Blandford.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The County Home Help Scheme has provided a service in Blandford and surrounding district and continues to do excellent work.

SECTION C

Prevalance of and Control over Infectious and
Other Diseases.

Whooping Cough.....	25
Measles.....	50
Scarlet fever.....	31
Tuberculosis.....	6
Dysentery.....	1
Pneumonia.....	18
Erysipelas.....	1
Food poisoning.....	1
Acute encephalitis.	2

135

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year, the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Males.....	20	Males.....	6
Females.....	18	Females.....	1

Notification of Infectious Diseases.
In Age Groups.

<u>AGES</u>	<u>Whooping Cough.</u>	<u>Measles</u>	<u>Scarlet fever</u>	<u>Tuberculosis,</u>	<u>Dysentery.</u>	<u>Pneumonia.</u>	<u>Ery. Sipelas.</u>	<u>Food Psg.</u>	<u>Acute Enceph- alitis.</u>
Under 1.		1						1	
1	2	2		1					
2.	3	4	1						
3.	3	3	2			3			
4.	3	6	3			1			
5- 9	9	30	21	1		1			1
10-14	5	3	1			3			1
15-24			3			5	1		
25 and Over.		1		4	1	5			
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

SECTION D
STATISTICAL TABLES..... 1958
Causes of Death

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measle.....	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases....	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, Stomach.....	1	3	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	5	-	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms....	4	6	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.....	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	9	11	20
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	4	8	12
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	-	-
20. Other heart diseases.....	8	8	16
21. Other circulatory disease.....	2	1	3
22. Influenza.....	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia.....	2	2	4
24. Bronchitis.....	2	2	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	6	8	14
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	1	-	1
34. All other accidents.....	1	-	1
35. Suicide.....	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
TOTALS.....	50	52	102

SECTION E

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR..... 1958

<u>Water Source.</u>	<u>Villages Supplied.</u>	<u>Properties Served.</u>	<u>Population Served.</u>
Blandford Borough.	Blandford St. Mary. Charlton Marshall. Spetisbury. Pimperne. Langton Long.	Whole - except for few isolated.	2300 approximately,
Shaftesbury R.D.C.	Shroton. Stepleton. Farrington.	Whole - except for few isolated.	430 approximately.
Bryanston Borehole. (Council controlled)	Bryanston Durweston Stourpaine.	Whole - except for few isolated.	1400 approximately.
Stubhampton.	Chettle. Farnham. Tarrant Valley.	Whole area in progress of being connected.	Eventually 1800 approximately.
Milborne.	Whole of Winterborne Valley. Milborne. Milton Abbas. Hilton.	All properties - Except a few isolated.	3000 approximately.

The Tarrant Valley scheme was completed during the year and already several villages are connected.

Two small areas remain unserved by water mains - Thornicombe and West End, Spetisbury - both containing 15 - 20 houses.

Water Samples taken during 1958

The large percentage of unsatisfactory private estate samples taken (13 unsatisfactory to 12 satisfactory) was due to a series of samples taken at a farm utilising its own well to supply its dairy and cottages. The source of this water had been approved and grant-aided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food after satisfactory sampling. Advice was given on methods to clean up this supply but towards the end of the year it was still unsatisfactory. Mains water is available at the farm.

Classification

	<u>Bacteriological</u>		
	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Council owned and supplying public.....	31	1	32
Private estate supplying public.....	12	13	25
Private estate supplying Council houses.....	-	1	1
Private Wells.....	10	-	10
Other local authorities supplying through Council's system.....	2	-	2
Public supplies not controlled by the Council.	8	-	8
	<u>63</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>78</u>

In addition to the above, four chemical samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

NUISANCES AND COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints made during the year remained much the same as previously but whereas there had not been any specific complaints regarding animals in 1957, this year six were made in respect of them. In a rural district these are difficult to deal with in the absence of byelaws.

Complaints were made up as follows:-

Housing.....	18
Drainage.....	21
Infestations.....	1
Keeping of animals..	6
Water.....	-
Miscellaneous.....	9
Discharge of oil....	3
	<u>58</u>

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.

I am pleased to report that all the licensed premises in the district now comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations standards. All the village shops now comply with the required minimum standards with two exceptions. Two bakeries have closed down as a direct result of not wishing to comply with the regulations, one bakery is still very much sub-standard despite numerous visits and warnings during the past two years.

The other bakeries are now in very much better condition after substantial improvements made in each of them.

The Council has reason to be pleased with the Food Hygiene standards throughout the district, but it still remains a great deal with the public to insist on continued hygienic handling of their food stuffs.

In all 105 visits have been made to food premises during the year, mostly to those premises where work was being, or required to be, carried out.

Sixty-five lbs. of beef sausages were the only food condemned as unfit during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

It is surprising that in a very rural district so many factories are listed under this heading. They appear in most villages as either a garage, an implement repair shop, a mill or even a bakery. The definition of factory is a complicated one, but appears in the Factories and Workshops Acts under which the Council performs its duties.

Number of Factories and Workshops on Register at the end of the year:-

(a)	With mechanical power.....	34
(b)	Without mechanical power.....	8
(c)	Other premises coming within the Act.....	25
(d)	Deletions from Register during the year.....	5
(e)	Number of inspections made.....	69
(f)	Number of informal notices.....	1
(g)	Number of notices complied with.....	1
(h)	Number of outworkers on Register.....	0

DRAINAGE

The sewerage of Milborne St. Andrew and Milton Abbas was carried out and made available to the public in June, 1954. At the end of December, 1958. the drainage of premises in this area remains very unsatisfactory indeed.

The Council's sixteen pre-war houses above Little England are still on bucket closets, four and a half years after the sewer was installed, four post-war Council houses drained to a septic tank are not connected, eighteen private houses remain unconnected, including two vacant houses. In all, therefore, thirty eight houses are still on bucket closets, at least fifty per cent of them having no kitchen sink. One house connected is still without a W.C.

Ministerial approval for this scheme was obtained mainly on the grounds of the protection of the Council's borehole, but with such a large number of properties remaining as a possible source of pollution, there can be no grounds for complacency.

During the year under review Milton Abbey School and seven houses were connected to the sewer, thus removing one of the potential sources of danger from the upper end of the valley. A very real source of danger of pollution remains in the Cafe at the lower end of Milton Abbas. This Cafe is patronised by visitors from all over the country and should have been connected at the time the other properties with septic tanks were connected. It still uses a septic tank close to the Milborne Stream.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

The Anderson tip was covered down with chalk and soil, a bank constructed with hedging and handed back to the owner during the year.

Efforts to obtain a tip in the area of Blandford Camp were abortive. The Camp is also now on a fortnightly collection as with the remainder of the district. Since early Summer the Camp refuse disposal arrangements have not been at the Council's disposal so that all refuse has now to be taken to the Winterborne Kingston tip.

Winterborne Kingston tip will be available for about another five years, but with no other worthwhile tips in view, other means of disposal may have to be considered.

Few genuine complaints regarding the collection have been made and this is due in no small way to the continued cheerfulness and willingness of the Council's two workmen, Messrs. Hall and Johnson. With the growth of the collection, their work is such that consideration should soon be given to the employment of an extra leader.

The salvage figures show a reduction on the amount sold in the previous year by £19. Details are as follows:-

Waste paper.....	£203. 0. 6.
Rags.....	25. 4. 11
Non-ferrous metals....	25. 5. 3.
Scrap iron.....	17. 0. 0.
	<u>£270. 10. 8</u>

RODENT CONTROL

There appears to have been an increase in the rat population during the year, although this has not been corroborated in adjoining areas.

The number of infestations seems to have increased but the infestations are not as heavy but rather light and widespread, which makes it more expensive and difficult to deal with them.

An experiment in a change of bait base from oatmeal to wheatmeal has been reasonably successful. The new base is much cheaper than the oatmeal but more difficult to mix and handle. There appears to be a change of diet with some rat colonies, as certain types of kale is being attacked by the rats. This has had the effect of keeping the rats in the hedgerows.

	<u>Council</u> <u>Promises.</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Promises.</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>Promises.</u>	<u>Agricultural</u> <u>Promises.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total					
Number of visits made.....	80	1279	103	411	1873
Total number of premises inspected					
(a) on complaint.....	-	66	-	10	76
(b) on survey.....	23	417	48	130	618
Number of premises treated:-					
Rats.....	6	143	7	61	217
Mice.....	1	34	-	5	40

HOUSING

A. Number of new houses completed during the year:-

(1) By Local Authority:-

(a) With State Assistance for rehousing under Housing Act, 1936, and for overcrowding.....	16
(b) With State Assistance for other purposes.....	-
(c) Without State Assistance.....	-

(2) By other persons:-

(a) With State Assistance.....	2
(b) Without State Assistance.....	24

B. Number of new houses commenced during the year but not completed:

(1) By Local Authority with State Assistance.....	-
(2) By other persons:	
(a) With State Assistance.....	-
(b) Without State Assistance.....	10

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

At the beginning of the year the Council decided to discontinue improvement grants, except for the Tarrant Valley area, resulting in a considerable drop in the number of and amounts of grants made available to the public,

This caused a fair amount of criticism from applicants who had to be informed that grants had ceased and only a few of these were prepared to wait until the Council reviewed the matter. Other applicants carried out the work first and then made application for the grant, but had to be informed that grants were not available in those circumstances.

HOUSING (Cont.)

The details for 1958 are as under:-

Applications received.....	4
Applications approved.....	4 involving 6 houses.
Applications disapproved.....	-
Amount allocated.....	£1520
Housing units completed during the year.....	26

SUMMARY 1958

Nuisances and Complaints.....	101
Housing Acts.....	454
Food Premises.....	105
Building Byelaws.....	706
Water Supplies.....	69
Water Samples.....	89
Drainage.....	319
Refuse and Salvage.....	82
Infectious Diseases.....	23
Factories and Workshops.....	55
Rats/Mice.....	1873
Dangerous buildings.....	5
Right of Way.....	1
River pollution.....	37
Sewerage Schemes.....	197
Sewerage Samples.....	18
Petroloum.....	30
Infestations.....	3
Caravans.....	55
Miscellaneous.....	102
Meetings.....	69
Flanning.....	37
Food Poisoning.....	1
Keeping of Animals.....	28
Milk samples.....	7
Clean Air Act.....	26
Old Persons.....	2

